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RULES, ORDERS,

A N D

BYE-LAWS;

F O R T H E

GOOD GOVERNMENT

O F T H E

CORPORATION

O F T H E

GOVERNOR and COMPANY

O F T H E

BANK of IRELAND. R

1784





R U L E S, O R D E R S,

A N D

B Y E - L A W S;

F O R T H E

Good Government of the Corpora-
tion of the Governor and Company
of the BANK of IRELAND.

I. B Y E - L A W.

Elections, the Time, Manner, and Scrutiny.

W H E R E A S many uncertainties and ^{1st Paragr.}
inconveniencies may arise for want ^{The Preamble.}
of a due and regular method of
proceeding at General Courts of Election,
for remedy thereof,

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2d Paragr.
*Votes to be de-
 livered perso-
 nally in writ-
 ing or print.*

It is hereby ordained and appointed, that at every General Court for any Election, every member qualified to vote, and being present, shall deliver in writing or print, a note or list, containing the name or names of such person or persons (members of this corporation respectively qualified, according to the tenor of the Charter) as he thinks fit to serve and execute the office or employment, for which such election is to be had or made, and that at every General Election for Governor and Deputy Governor, or either of them, each elector shall deliver in writing or print, only the name of one person qualified for the place of Governor, and only the name of one person qualified for the place of Deputy-Governor, and no more ; and that at every General Election for Directors, which shall always be held on the second day succeeding said election of Governor and Deputy-Governor, each Elector shall likewise deliver in a list of the names of fifteen persons, which shall appear by the printed list hereafter ordered to be delivered out to be qualified for Directors, and no more or less. And that in case any person shall deliver in writing or print, any more than one name for the place of Governor ;

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one name for the place of Deputy-Governor ; or a list of any more or less than fifteen names of persons qualified for Directors, the same shall be reputed and deemed as no vote, and the said list, and all the names therein, shall be totally rejected ; and that the like mode be observed upon all elections in cases of vacancies.

And that in case at any General Court of Election of Directors, any person shall in such list insert the names of any more than ten of those persons, who were chosen into, and did serve the office of Directors, the then last preceding year, the same list shall in like manner be rejected.

*3d Paragr.
The list to be rejected wherein are above ten of the last year's Directors.*

And that if in any list for Directors, there shall be inserted the name either of the Governor or Deputy-Governor elected for the ensuing year, such list shall be rejected. And that in case any Director shall upon any vacancy be chosen into the office of Governor, or Deputy-Governor, the seat of such person as Director shall be absolutely vacated, and another person chosen in his place.

*4th Paragr.
If the Governor or Deputy be inserted in the list of Directors, it is to be rejected.*

And in case it shall happen, that upon making the scrutiny for any election of Governor, Deputy-Governor, or Directors, any two

*5th Paragr.
If two persons qualified have an equal number of votes, the choice to be*

determined by the General Court. two or more persons qualified for the respective office or employment, for which he or they shall be named, shall have an equal number of votes, which shall or may entitle one or more of them to such office or employment, the election, in such case, shall be determined and settled by the General Court, in which such scrutiny shall be reported.

6th Paragr. Undistinguished, wrong, or mistaken names, to be determined by the scrutineers, or in their default, by the General Court. And that if on taking the scrutiny for any election of Governor, Deputy-Governor, or Directors, it shall fall out that two or more persons qualified for the office, for which such election shall be made, shall have the same christian and fir-names, and are not distinguished by their additions, or that a wrong christian name in any note or list is placed to a fir-name, when but one person of that fir-name is qualified for the respective office, or that any literal mistake be made in christian or fir-names; in all and every the cases before-mentioned, such undistinguished wrong or mistaken name or names, shall be kept, and not thrown aside or rejected, but the rest of the list shall be allowed : And the persons appointed to take the scrutiny at such election, or so many as shall be present, may determine the person, or persons intended by such undistinguished

distinguished, wrong, or mistaken name or names, provided they, or the major part of them, shall agree in ascertaining the person or persons so meant or intended; but in default thereof, the same shall be determined and settled by the General Court, in which such scrutiny shall be reported.

And that every such election shall commence at the hour of ten o'clock in the morning, and continue open until two of the clock in the afternoon, when the glass or balloting box shall be sealed up, or the ballots immediately cast up by scrutineers, to be then appointed for that purpose, and that no note or list shall be received after said hour.

7th Paragr.
No vote to be received after the glass or balloting box is finally sealed up.

And that if any Member of this corporation shall hereafter use, or procure to be used, any indirect means to obtain any vote or votes for the election of himself, or any other, to be Governor, Deputy-Governor, or Directors of this corporation, and be thereof declared guilty at a General Court, to be called for that purpose, such person from thenceforth shall, for ever, be incapable of being elected to, or holding any such office or place.

8th Paragr.
None to use or procure indirect means to obtain votes.

And that in all elections of Committees, hereafter to be had or made by a General Court,

9th Paragr.
Elections of committees by a General Court to be in the same manner.

Court, the same orders, rules and methods (so near as the case will admit) shall be used, observed, and kept, and under such penalties and disabilities as herein before prescribed, for or concerning the election of Governor, Deputy-Governor, and Directors.

10th Paragr.

If more than two-thirds of the old Directors be chosen, all above that number to be removed.

And in case, at any Annual General Court of Election, all the fifteen Directors for the preceding year, or more than two-thirds of them shall happen to have the majority of votes, for being Directors for the ensuing year, that then the remaining one-third or other less number of the said fifteen (over and above two-thirds of them) as shall happen to have the fewest votes, shall be removed, and such five or other less number of the other members of this corporation, qualified as aforesaid, who have the most voices next to those so removed, shall be, and be deemed and reputed to be elected to succeed and serve as Directors for the succeeding year, in the stead and place of those so removed, and shall be admitted and sworn accordingly.

11th Paragr.

Part of this Bye-Law to be printed in the list for the annual election.

And that the first, second, third, fourth, seventh and eighth paragraphs, or clauses of this Bye-Law, shall be inserted at the end of every printed list of all persons qualified to be

be elected Governor, Deputy-Governor, or Director; which list shall be given out on demand, at the bank, at least three days before the annual elections of those officers, to the end the members of this corporation, qualified to vote, may be well-informed and directed in the giving in their votes.

II. BYE-LAW.

Voting by the Ballot, or by Lists, and choosing Officers.

Item, It is resolved and ordained, that in all General Courts, upon any election or other question to be made or determined, concerning any one person, matter, or thing only, the ballot shall be allowed and used, in case the same be demanded by any nine or more members, then qualified to elect and vote, and not otherwise.

1st Paragr.
In all questions relating to one person or thing, the ballot (if demanded by 9) to be allowed.

And that in all General Courts, upon any election or question to be made or determined, concerning more than one person, matter or thing, such election or question shall not be determined by the ballot, but by notes or lists in writing, of the members qualified to vote,

2d Paragr.
All questions relating to more than one person or thing to be determined by notes in writing, if demanded by 9.

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put into a glass or box, in the same manner as the Court of Directors are to be chosen; in case the said determination by notes or lists shall be demanded by any nine or more persons qualified to vote.

3d Paragr.

The servants to be chosen by the ballot, within thirty days after the annual election.

And further, That from and after the five and twentieth day of *March*, 1784, and so yearly, and every year, for ever, all and every the officers, ministers, agents, or servants employed or to be employed by this corporation, or by the Governor, Deputy-Governor, and Directors, or any of them, in the service of this corporation, shall be elected by the Court of Directors every year, by the ballot, within thirty days after the General Court, for the annual election of Governor, Deputy-Governor, and Directors.

III. BYE-LAW.

Custody of the Common Seal, and how to be used.

Item, It is ordained, that the seal of this corporation shall be carefully kept under three locks, the three keys whereof shall be severally kept by such three of the Governor, Deputy-Governor, and Directors, for the time being,

as

as the Court of Directors, from time to time, shall empower to keep the same, and that the said seal shall not be affixed, or set to any paper or parchment, writing, or instrument whatsoever, but by an order of the Court of Directors for that purpose first had and obtained, and also in the presence of three or more of the Governor, Deputy-Governor, and Directors for the time being.

IV. BYE-LAW.

Keeping the Cash.

Item, It is ordained, that the cash of this corporation (excepting such sum and sums of money as shall by the committee in waiting, subject to such regulations as the Court of Directors shall appoint, be thought necessary to be left in the hands of one or more of the Cashiers for running cash) shall be carefully kept under three or more locks, the keys whereof shall be kept by such three or more of the Governor, Deputy-Governor, and Directors, as the said Court of Directors, from time to time, shall empower to keep the same, each of the said persons keeping one of the said keys.

All the cash (except the running cash left in the hands of the Cashiers) to be kept under three Locks.

V. BYE-LAW.

*The Meeting and Business of Courts of Directors,
and their Sub-committees.*

*A Court of
Directors to be
held once a
week at least.*

Item, For the more easy and safe dispatch of the business of this corporation, to the honour and benefit thereof, it is resolved and ordained, that a Court of Directors shall be held once in every week at the least, and that such court may and shall, from time to time, (as occasion shall require) appoint Sub-committees, and give all needful directions to such Sub-committees, concerning what securities shall be taken for money to be lent, and of what nature or kind; and also in what proportions, and touching and concerning all and every other thing and things requisite in that behalf. And it is hereby ordained, that no

*No money to be
lent but what,
and how, the
Court of Di-
rectors shall
order.*

money shall be lent upon any other sort of security, or in any other proportion, or to any other value, or otherwise disposed of, than what, or as shall be, from time to time, first directed by the said Court of Directors. And

*Every Sub-
committee to
lay their pro-
ceedings week-
ly before the
Court of Di-
rectors.*

that every Sub-committee shall weekly lay before said Court of Directors, so to be held as aforesaid, an account of what monies are or shall

shall be then owing by this corporation under their common seal, and what securities shall have been taken, or other business transacted or negotiated by them, touching this corporation, during the then last preceding week.

VI. BYE-LAW.

Dealings of Governor, Deputy-Governor, and Directors, with the Corporation, not to be concealed.

Item, For the prevention of fraud and deceit in all and every the transactions of this corporation, it is resolved and ordained, that in all cases whatsoever, where the Governor, Deputy-Governor, and Directors of the corporation, or any of them, shall have any dealing or business with this corporation, upon their own account, separately, or in conjunction with any others, for or in respect of any tallies, bills of exchange, pawns, pledges, or other contract or bargain whatsoever, by, or from, to, or with this corporation, that then and in every such case, such Governor, Deputy-Governor, and Director, (so having any such business with this corporation in manner as aforesaid) shall at the time of his or their negotiating

The Governor, Deputy, and Directors, to publish to the Sub-committee their dealings with the corporation, and all circumstances thereof.

negotiating or transacting the same, declare and publish to the Sub-committee for the time being, fully, fairly and clearly, such his share and interest, whether sole or joint with others, in all and every such affair or business by him or them so negotiated or transacted as aforesaid, and all the particular circumstances thereof. And if any such Governor, Deputy-Governor, or Director, shall at any time wittingly or willingly offend contrary to this rule, ordinance or bye-law, such person so offending, being first accused thereof in any General Court, and summoned to answer the same, and afterwards declared guilty thereof by another General Court, shall immediately become, and be deemed and reputed to be, incapable for ever, either of holding or enjoying, or being chosen again into the said offices of Governor, Deputy-Governor, Directors, or any of them.

Penalty.

VII. BYE-LAW.

The Concerned in Debates to withdraw.

Item, It is resolved and ordained, that in all cases where any question or debate shall at any time arise, or be made, touching or concerning any person or persons (members of this corporation)

tion) or concerning any matter or thing relating to any such person or persons, or wherein he or they shall be concerned, such person or persons, touching or concerning whom such question or debate is, or shall be had or made, shall have or give no vote relating thereto, but shall withdraw and be absent during such debate concerning himself, or any matter or thing wherein he is concerned.

VIII. BYE-LAW.

Borrowing on the Seal.

Item, It is hereby ordained, that the Governor, Deputy-Governor, and Directors, or any of them, shall not at any time hereafter, without the consent and direction of a General Court first had, wittingly or willingly borrow, owe, or give security under the common seal, for any sum or sums of money, exceeding in the whole, at any one time Six Hundred Thousand Pounds, or procure the borrowing, owing, or giving security for any such further sum or sums of money, by bill, bond, or other covenant or agreement, under the common seal of this corporation, as aforesaid; and in case the common seal shall be set or affixed to any bill, bond,

Governor, Deputy, and Directors not to borrow, or owe under the common seal, any sums exceeding in the whole, at one time, 600,000l.

*The penalty
for so doing,
or consenting
thereto.*

bond, or other agreement for money, contrary to this ordinance, or bye-law, that then each and every the Governor, Deputy-Governor, and Directors, or other members of this corporation, who shall order, procure, consent, agree to, or wittingly approve of the same, and be thereof lawfully convicted, shall for every such offence severally forfeit to the said Governor and Company of the Bank of *Ireland*, the sum of One Thousand Pounds, sterling, and also all such further and other sum or sums of money as the said Governor and Company of the Bank of *Ireland* shall be damnified, for, or by reason thereof.

IX. BYE-LAW.

Selling P A W N S.

Item, It is resolved and ordained, that all jewels, plate, bullion, or other goods, chattels, or merchandizes whatsoever, which shall be pawned unto this corporation, or left and deposited therewith, as pawns or pledges for money to be lent or advanced thereon, and not redeemed at the time agreed on, or within three calendar months afterwards, shall, whenever they are sold, be sold at a public sale, upon

upon three days notice thereof, first given by writing, on the *Royal-Exchange*, or upon such other public notice as the Court of Directors shall think fit. And that no sale of any such goods, chattels, or merchandizes, not redeemed as aforesaid, shall be had or made in any other manner.

X. BYE-LAW.

For Transfers, and registering Contracts, what to be paid.

Item, It is ordained, that upon all transfers For transfers. to be made of any share or interest in the capital stock or fund of this corporation, the sum of five British shillings, and no more, shall be paid by the party transferring to, and for the use of the corporation, for, and towards the bearing and defraying the charges of books, accomp-
tants, law, duty, and other like expences. And that upon every promise, contract, bar-For registering contracts. gain, covenant or agreement to be made for the buying or selling of any share or interest, in the capital stock or fund of this corporation, or for transferring the property thereof in trust, or otherwise, which shall be brought to be registered in the book or books of the bank,

the sum of two British shillings, and no more, shall be paid for such registering, (by the party desiring to register the same) to and for the use of this corporation.

XI. BYE-LAW.

Against the Servants taking any Rewards.

Item, It is ordained, that no officer, servant, or other person whatsoever employed, or which shall hereafter be employed by this corporation, for or about any business of the same, shall presume directly or indirectly to receive or take any fee, gratuity, or reward of any sort, kind, or quality whatsoever, for the doing or dispatching, or the not doing or delaying, any business or affair belonging to this corporation, or for any other reason or colour, or upon any account relating to his or their respective employment, or otherwise concerning this corporation howsoever, from any person or persons whatsoever, other than only from this corporation, or by order thereof, or of the Court of Directors. And that if any person or persons employed or to be employed as aforesaid, shall offend contrary to this ordinance or bye-law, such person shall be for ever incapable of holding, or
being

The Penalty.

being chosen again into such his, their, or any other employment, in or under this corporation.

XII. BYE-LAW.

General Courts for Dividends, Half-yearly.

Item, It is ordained, that twice in every year a General Court shall be called and held, for considering the general state and condition of this corporation, and for the making of dividends, out of all and singular the produce and profit of the capital stock and fund of this corporation, and the trade thereof, amongst the several owners and proprietors therein, according to their several shares and proportions: The one of which said courts shall be held on some day between the Tenth and Twenty-fifth day of *December*, and the other on some day between the Tenth and Twenty-fourth day of *June*, yearly.

XIII. BYE-LAW.

Yearly Recompences to the Governor, Deputy-Governor, and Directors.

Item, It is ordained, that the recompence to the Governor and Deputy-Governor should be

be £150 each yearly, and to each Director
£100 yearly.

XIV. BYE-LAW.

Taking and reading the Minutes of Courts.

Item, It is ordained, that the minutes of all debates, orders, resolutions and transactions, had, made, and agreed on, at every General Court and Court of Directors, shall hereafter be taken and written down by the secretary, or the person chosen and sworn to be his assistant, in a book to be kept for that purpose; and that before any such courts shall be adjourned or dismissed, the minutes of that court shall be read over audibly by the secretary, or such his assistant as aforesaid.

And that all meetings of General Courts, of which notice is required, to be posted on the *Royal-Exchange*, shall also be published in one or more of the Dublin News-papers.

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